ADMISSION TO JUNIOR ACADEMY 2014

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility for education at the Junior Academy: Applicants who are under 18 years of age at the beginning of their first year at the Junior Academy (1 August) and enrolled in elementary or secondary education in Finland are eligible for education. Applicants to classical vocal music must be 15 years of age by the end of the application period.

The Junior Academy takes students for Classical Music Performance, Composition and Music Theory, Jazz and Folk Music.

In addition to voice you can apply to following Classical Music Performance instruments:
Early music (period instrument), piano, accordion, kantele, guitar, wind instruments (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba), string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) percussion, harp or organ.

The right to study at the Junior Academy is granted for a period of one year at a time. The Sibelius Academy decides on the continuation of studies for a Junior Academy student with no separate selection procedures.

The Junior Academy students will lose their right to study when they finish their elementary education or when they finish their secondary education. However, the latest they can study is until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 20 years of age, even if they have not yet completed the education mentioned above.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application period starts on Monday 3.3.2014 and ends on Friday 14.3.2014 16.15 Finnish time. The pre-examination assignments (composition and music theory) must be submitted to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office by Friday 14.3.2014, 16.15 (Finnish time). It’s not allowed to send the tasks by email.

The Sibelius Academy Admissions Office will answer your questions. The email address is admissions@siba.fi.

Sibelius Academy / Admissions Office
P.O. Box 32, FI-00097 UNIARTS
(Visiting address: Töölönkatu 28, 00260 Helsinki)

Please see the opening hours and more contact details at http://www.siba.fi/en/studies/apply-degree-student

School certificates or degree or other certificates are not submitted during the application period. Students admitted to the Junior Academy must submit a certificate of studying in elementary or secondary education in Finland in 2014-2015. If a student fails to provide the certificate in time, he or she will lose the study place at Sibelius Academy.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

A preliminary timetable for the entrance examinations will be published on the Sibelius Academy web site. The exact dates will be announced in the invitation. If you have listed an e-mail address in the application form, an invitation to the entrance examination or a notification of rejection will be sent to you by e-mail. Invitations will be sent to the applicants two to three weeks prior to the main subject/main instrument examination date at the latest.
Please note: Please contact the Admissions Office (admissions@siba.fi) if you do not receive an invitation 2-3 weeks before the examination at the latest! Some e-mail clients may treat our messages as spam, so please check your spam folder as well. Label the message as “not spam” so that you will receive our messages in the future as well.

If you fail to provide a pre-examination assignment or if you have not provided it in the required format, you may not get an invitation to the entrance examinations.

Applicants must attend the entrance examination in person. They are responsible for all travel expenses and lodging for the duration of the entrance examination. Each applicant has a scheduled time for the entrance examination that will be included in the invitation. The applicant can’t change the scheduled time. If an applicant doesn’t participate in the entrance examinations, his or her application will be rejected. The applicant must notify the Admissions Office if he or she is unable to attend the entrance examination.

If the entrance examination has several parts, you will be advised of when and where your results will be posted no later than at the entrance examination. At all the examinations, you must present official proof of identity, either a passport or a European Union identity card. The entrance examination is closed and attended only by you and, with the Entrance Examination Board's permission, your personal accompanist or other assisting musician. Your audition at the entrance examination will not be recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

The dean’s decision on admittance will be announced on Wednesday 4.6.2014 9.00 (Finnish time) at Töölönkatu 28 in Helsinki. The decision will also be published on the Sibelius Academy web site (http://www.siba.fi) including names of those applicants who have given permission to publish their names online.

If you are admitted, you will receive a letter of acceptance by post. Other applicants will not receive a letter. They can check the results on the Sibelius Academy web site, and on a list at Sibelius Academy premises. You can also inquire about the results by email at admissions@siba.fi.

When informed of the results of student admission, you will be notified as to where you can access information on the particular admission criteria that were applied to you.
ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Classical Music Performance

Piano

Applicants born in 2000 and later:
1) A composition by J.S. Bach
2) A fast movement from a Viennese-Classical sonata or sonatina other equivalent composition
3) A composition of the applicant’s choice
All pieces to be played from memory.

Applicants born in 1999 and earlier:
1) A three-part invention or prelude and fugue by J.S. Bach or other equivalent composition
2) A fast movement from a classical sonata
3) A composition of the applicant’s choice
All pieces to be played from memory.

Accordion

Three compositions of the applicant’s choice, presenting different styles, to be played from memory. Sight reading if necessary. The Examination Board may listen to only a part of the audition. Each applicant will be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes.

Percussion

The applicants will prepare in addition to the possible compulsory assignments a free-choice demonstration of their skills on the following instruments:
1) side drum
2) timpani
3) melodic percussion instruments (xylophone, vibraphone, and marimba)
A sight reading assignment is also included.
All assignments are to be played without accompaniment. The possible compulsory assignment will be sent with the invitation letter.

Flute

a) A transverse flute sonata by G. Ph. Telemann of the applicant’s own choice
b) A work of the applicant's choice with a maximum duration of 5 minutes

The compositions need not be played from memory. Works requiring accompaniment are played with accompaniment. An accompanist provided by the Academy will be available. The applicant may also bring his/her own accompanist. If the applicant wishes to use the Academy's accompanist, he or she must state this in the application form.

Other classical music instrument

Under and over 15-year-olds:

Two pieces of different styles of the applicant’s choice played from memory. If the instrument is an organ, a woodwind or brass or an early music instrument, the pieces need not be played from memory. Sight reading assignment if necessary. The Board may ask to hear part of the assignments only.
Accompaniment in the entrance examinations

If the main instrument is a violin, viola, or a double bass the compositions must be played without accompaniment. Students auditioning for other instruments can play their pieces with or without accompaniment.

The Academy will provide an accompanist but the applicant may also use his/her own accompanist. If the applicant wishes to use an Academy accompanist they must state this in the application form.

If you intend to audition with a pianist provided by the Academy, you are required to submit the music no later than three weeks before the audition to following address: Sibelius Academy, Admissions Office/Accompaniment sheets, P.O. Box 32, FI-00097 UNIARTS. It’s not possible to practise with the Academy’s pianist before the audition. The sheet music must clearly indicate the applicant's name and the instrument for which he or she is applying.

Voice (only applicants who are over 15-year-old by 14.3.2014)

1) An aria from an oratorio or opera
2) A song (Lied)
3) Second instrument
   Songs must be performed from memory. The applicant must provide the music for the accompaniment in the key he/she intends to sing in. The Academy will provide an accompanist.

Folk music

The performance as a whole should last 10–15 minutes. In addition to their main instruments applicants may include a demonstration in a second instrument. The music must be performed from memory and unaccompanied. Double bass or electric bass players and percussionists may use an assistant musician for part of their performance.

The repertoire may consist of traditional or new music, or music of the applicant’s own composition, and improvisation. If the repertoire consists mainly of traditional music other than Finnish, the performance must nevertheless include a sample of Finnish folk music.

All applicants invited to take the Folk Music entrance examination for the Junior Academy must also attend a musicality test arranged by the Folk Music Department. The test will assess the applicant’s ability to perceive tonal music, to distinguish between sounds and to memorize melodies.

Jazz music

The applicant will perform two prepared jazz compositions of his/her own choice from memory in the instrument audition.

The audition can include additional assignment (scales, chords, etc.) at the Board’s discretion. Each applicant will be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes.

The Academy provides all applicants with accompanists (piano, bass, drums). The applicant must perform with the accompanying ensemble. The applicant must submit sheet music for the accompanists by email to jazzvalinnat@siba.fi by 22 April 2014, or bring them with him or her to the audition.

The applicant must perform jazz compositions that are different in tempo, style and key, and they must include an improvised solo in accordance with the chords and form of the composition. Scat song is optional.
Composition and Music Theory

By the end of the application period, applicants must submit a written account of their previous studies in music to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office. The account (a maximum of 1 standard page) must include the following details:

- Your name
- Please list all previous training and qualifications in the theory and history of music, and solfège and/or ear training and analysis. State where and when these subjects were studied. If you have completed recognized courses, please provide information about the course in which you attained the highest level or qualification.
- Please list your previous instrumental studies and other musical activity
- Applicants applying to the main subject composition must also submit an account of their previous studies in composition (teacher's name, duration and form of studies, institution, and official attainments, if any).

Address: Sibelius Academy / Admissions Office
P.O. Box 32, FI-00097 UNIARTS
(Visiting address: Töölönkatu 28, 00260 Helsinki)

The applicant is presumed to possess good basic qualifications in music theory and solfège as well as practical musical ability and a wide knowledge of both early and modern Western music. The applicant is also presumed to be musically creative.

Composition

Applicants for Composition should send to the Sibelius Academy, in addition to the written account mentioned above, a selection of samples of their own compositions. The amount of the samples is limited. The selection must include:

EITHER a) two complete works (no limitations on the number of pages)
OR b) one complete work (no limitations on the number of pages) and not more than five pages of excerpts from other works.

Samples exceeding the limit will not be considered.
A sample page must be a copy of the original and in the same size as the original.

There must, however, in both cases be at least five pages in the selection. The excerpts may be sections from larger works. In that case the excerpts must be accompanied by an account of the work as a whole.

The samples should be submitted to the Sibelius Academy Admissions Office (Sibelius Academy / Admissions Office, P.O. Box 32, FI-00097 UNIARTS) so that they arrive by 14.3.2014 (16.15 Finnish time) in five paper copies (note: not originals), each marked with the applicant’s name and address. The samples cannot be sent by email. Should a sound version already exist, this should also be included (CD or a USB memory stick). The samples will not be returned. The compositions must be written on pages not exceeding the A3 size.

Based on the score for the composition samples, some of the applicants will be invited to Stage II.

The second phase of the entrance examination will consist of the following parts: a general music theory, solfège and aural perception test; own test in music theory and analysis; an interview and an audition in an instrument.

Applicants invited to the second phase will receive a composition assignment. The applicants will solve the assignment by the time of the interview, present it to the Board, and perform it on their main instrument or the piano.
At the interview, applicants who are invited to Stage II must provide an essay (of a maximum of 50 words) on their expectations for composition studies.

When selecting students for Composition, the different factors are weighted as follows:
- compositions 20%
- general tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception 20%
- music theory test arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants 20%

**Music Theory**

The entrance examination for the main subject of Music Theory is divided into two parts: general assignments in music theory, solfège and aural perception and theory and analysis assignments for Composition and Music Theory applicants.

All applicants for the main subject of music theory, who are deemed eligible, will get an invitation with information of the time and place of the first part. On the grounds of the applicant evaluation methods in Part 1, some of the applicants will be called for Part 2, which includes instrument auditions and an interview. A list of those selected to Part 2 and the timetable for Part 2 will be sent out by email and posted on the front door of the Töölönkatu building (Töölönkatu 28).

When selecting students for Music Theory, the different factors are weighted as follows:
- general test in music theory, solfège, and aural perception 20%
- music theory test arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants 40%
- interview (with instrumental auditions) 40%

**ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

**General tests in music theory, solfège and aural perception**

The first part of the assignments in music theory, solfège and aural perception tests the applicant’s aural ability to recognise works and different styles in music and the second the applicant’s basic theoretical knowledge of music. The third part is a solfège assignment, which may include identification of intervals and chords, melody and rhythm dictation, and sight reading.

The theory and aural perception test may be taken in Finnish, Swedish or English. In the application form, the applicant must make a note of the language he/she wishes to be tested in.

Applicants may prepare for the general music theory, solfège and aural perception tests by reviewing the entrance examination questions from the previous year. The questions have been published on the Sibelius Academy web site.

**Music theory tests arranged for the Composition and Music Theory applicants**

This tests the applicant’s analytical perception, ability to describe music in writing and knowledge of music theory and music history. The examination may include the following areas: figured bass, the sonata form and other traditional forms (recognition of bridge passages and cadences), basic post-tonal concepts, perception of texture by ear.

**Interview (Composition)**

The interview will assess the applicant's abilities to analyse compositional solutions, his or her motivation for composing and systematic training in composition, knowledge of repertoires, and skills for theory and analysis. The Board will also assess the applicant's suitability for training in composition and music theory.
Interview (Music Theory)

The interview will assess the applicant's abilities to analyse compositions, his or her motivation for working in the field, knowledge of repertoires, and skills for theory and analysis. The board will also assess the applicant's suitability for training in composition and music theory.

Instrument auditions

The interview includes an audition in a main instrument. If the applicant’s main instrument is piano, he/she should be prepared to play a J. S. Bach Invention or some other comparable composition, a fast movement from a Viennese classical sonata and a composition of his/her own choice. There is also a sight reading assignment.

If the applicant’s main instrument is other than the piano, the requirements are a classical sonata or two other equally demanding compositions.

Applicants whose main instrument is other than the piano should be prepared to play a piece on the piano. Free accompaniment, score reading, improvisation or other samples of the applicant’s practical ability as a musician may also be included in the examination.